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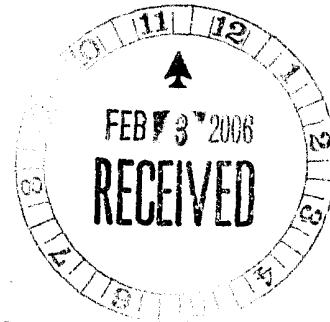
HISTORIC PAULUS HOOK ASSOCIATION, INC.

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January 26, 2006

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FEB 1 2006
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Re: Jersey City -- Petition for a Declaratory Order, STB Finance Docket 34818

Dear Secretary:

The Historic Paulus Hook Association is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit association, formed in 1974 by residents of one of Jersey City's four National Historic Districts. Our organization supports the City of Jersey City, et al. in its Petition for a Declaratory Order, Docket 34818. Conrail's failure to comply with federal abandonment regulations has deprived the public of National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review and environmental contaminant oversight. Its sale of the property to a developer who has begun demolishing pieces of it is a major blow to the City of Jersey City, which had begun a process to acquire the property for the use and benefit of its citizens.

The Paulus Hook Historic District is a community along the Hudson River waterfront. It is a mixed residential and commercial area, with many historic buildings related to the Golden Age of Railroads. Several were served by industrial tracks coming from the Harsimus Yards and the Harsimus Branch freight line.

The Historic Paulus Hook Association has long supported efforts to preserve this railroad embankment that was the Pennsylvania Railroad's main freight line into its Harsimus Docks on the Hudson. The Embankment structure is included on the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places and is eligible for listing on the National Register. The corridor is needed for transportation and public open space needs, including a greenway that would connect with the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and provide residents of the Paulus Hook neighborhood with much-needed transportation and recreation options.

We ask that you immediately institute a proceeding or order Conrail to comply with 49 USC 10903 by seeking an abandonment authorization.

Please include this letter as part of the record of the proceeding. I have served the representatives of parties by US Mail, as indicated below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gerry Bakirtjy'.

Gerry Bakirtjy,
President

January 26, 2006

Cc: Senator Menendez
Councilman Steven Fulop
Robert Cotter, Jersey City Planning Department

Jonathan Broder, VP and GC
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